Safe Staffing and RN-to-Patient Ratios are Front-page News
As Nurses Flood State House for the June 18th Hearing

Now It’s Time to Keep the Momentum Going!

Congratulations to everyone who attended the June 18 press conference and legislative hearing on H.1282, An Act Ensuring Quality Patient Care and Safe RN Staffing Legislation!

What you can do to help keep the issue of safe staffing on the legislature’s agenda

✔️ Write your state senator and representative a hand-written note RIGHT NOW!
  • Let them know why safe staffing is vital to patient care and the future of nursing.
  • Provide your legislator with some insight into your job as a front-line nurse.
  • Let them know that there are thousands of RNs from across the state who believe in RN-to-patient ratios and are counting on the legislature to pass the MNA’s Safe Staffing Bill. Letter writing guidelines are included on the back of this page.

A hand-written note has a big impact.

The Honorable _________________
State House, Room # ______
Boston, MA 02133

Personal contact helps to make bills become laws.

Tips:

• Remember to include your name, address and phone number with your written correspondence (including e-mail).

• Follow up your letter with a phone call to your legislators:
  Senate switchboard: 617.722.1455

• If you don’t know who your legislator is, go to:
  http://www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/myelectioninfo.php

• For legislators’ contact information (including e-mail addresses), go to:
  http://www.state.ma.us/legis/legis.htm
Letter Writing Guidelines:

- **If your legislator is a co-sponsor** (please see attached list) of the MNA’s Safe Staffing Bill, House 1282, please be sure to thank them for co-sponsoring the legislation.

- **If your legislator is NOT a co-sponsor** (please see attached list) of the MNA’s Safe Staffing Bill, House 1282, please ask them to sign on to the legislation as a show of support for Massachusetts patients and nurses.

- Be sure to include a personal anecdote about patient care (without divulging any confidential information) such as: examples of your last shift when you were understaffed, examples of what you can’t do for patients when you are short staffed, what happens to patients who don’t receive enough nursing care and what you do as a registered nurse that is different than what doctors or aides do.

Below are some other guidelines. Please use them as needed and feel free to insert your own personal experiences.

- As a registered nurse, I am writing to thank you for sponsoring/urge you to sponsor House Bill 1282, An Act To Ensure Quality Patient Care and Safe Registered Nurse Staffing.

- Please urge your colleagues on the Health Care Committee to support this bill.

- Massachusetts patients must share their nurse with too many other patients. This understaffing of registered nurses is dangerous.

- A recent study in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that the higher the patient-to-nurse ratio in a hospital, the more likely there will be patient deaths or complications after surgery.

- H. 1282 will save lives and protect Massachusetts patients from cost-cutting measures.

- Mistakes, errors and complications become more likely when nurses are asked to take care of too many patients at once.

- Nurses on typical medical floors in Massachusetts are required to care for 8, ten or more patients at a time. Most medical professionals agree that nurses should not take care of more than 4 or 5 patients at once.

- Massachusetts has more RNs per capita than any other state in the nation, so the shortage can be corrected easily once safe staffing ratios are established.

- Safe staffing ratios will mean less turnover among nurses, which will save money on training costs and the hiring of temporary nurses. Also, since patients will receive better care, experience fewer complications and will not need to stay in the hospital as long, considerable savings will be realized this way as well.

*For more information, go to www.massnurses.org and click on the “Legislation & Government Affairs” link.*